

REMARKS

I. Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to certain informalities in original Claims 1-8. These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Replacement Claims 9-11 do not contain the informalities listed in the Office Action. Accordingly, these objections should be obviated.

II. Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 under Section 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Replacement Claims 9-11 do not contain the claim terms that the Examiner asserted to be indefinite in the Office Action. Accordingly, these rejections should be obviated.

III. Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103

a. Poganski in view of Schnepel

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected original Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 as being unpatentable over Poganski in view of Schnepel. These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully submits that replacement Claims 9-11 are patentable over this cited combination.

In this regard, independent Claim 9 recites in a more detailed fashion the structural elements of the claimed socket body. This includes a two-diameter ratchet body, a spring positioned on the smaller diameter section of the ratchet body, two sets of

mating teeth, and a selectively positionable pressure adjusting element positioned against the spring. Support for these claim elements may be found in the specification, including for example in drawing figures 2 and 6. It is believed that this combination of features provides an improvement over the performance exhibited by prior art socket bodies.

This claimed structure is not shown in the cited art. With respect to the Poganski reference, it does not have a pressure adjusting element. Indeed, it discloses that its “spring means” has a “predetermined force” (Col. 2, lines 59-62) and thus teaches away from the concept of pressure adjustment. The Schnepel reference lacks the two diameter ratchet body, the spring located around a section of the ratchet body, and the mating teeth.

Applicant respectfully submits that it is only with the benefit of hindsight that the Poganski and Schnepel tools can be reconstructed to have the configuration claimed in Claims 9-11. Such hindsight reconstruction should not be utilized to support a rejection of these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges the allowance of Claims 9-11.

b. Schnepel in view of Poganski

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected original Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 as being unpatentable over Schnepel in view of Poganski. As discussed in the proceeding section, these claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicant respectfully submits that replacement Claims 9-11 are patentable over this cited combination.

c. Poganski, Schnepel and Bowman

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected original Claims 3-5, now canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, as being unpatentable over the combination of Poganski, Schnepel and Bowman. For the reasons provided in subsection (a) hereof, Applicant

respectfully submits that replacement Claims 9-11 patentably distinguish over the Poganski and Schnepel references, which are the primary references cited in support of this rejection. For the same reasons, therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 9-11 are patentable over the combination of Poganski, Schnepel and Bowman.

d. Hillinger and Rodman

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected original Claims 1-5 and 8 as being unpatentable over Hillinger in view of Rodman. These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully submits that replacement Claims 9-11 are patentable over this cited combination.

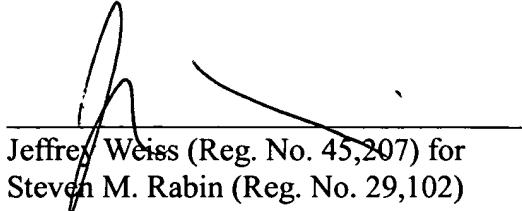
As discussed above, independent Claim 9 recites in a more detailed fashion the structural elements of the claimed socket body. This claimed structure is not shown in the cited art. Among other things, the Hillinger reference, the primary reference cited in support of this rejection, lacks a pressure adjusting element. The cover (46) of Hillinger is not selectively adjustable within the socket body, and thus does not provide a pressure adjusting function. The Rodman reference does not supply this missing feature.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that new Claim 9-11 are patentable over the cited combination of Hillinger and Rodman.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment, including the amendments to the Claims and in view of the Remarks offered in conjunction therewith, are fully responsive to all aspects of the objections and rejections tendered by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 9-11 are now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore earnestly solicits the issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to these claims.

If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from our Deposit Account No. 18-0002.

Respectfully submitted,


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